

Part Four: Completing the Survey Forms

State Survey Forms

The American Battlefield Protection Program recommends that surveyors complete two different survey forms for each battlefield they visit. The first is a reconnaissance-level state survey form. These forms are available from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The most common types of state survey forms are for architectural resources, so specify that you need the state's form for sites or landscapes, if available.

Most state survey forms request the following information: site name, site location, current use and condition, ownership, a brief physical description, a narrative about the site significance, bibliographic references, a site plan, and black and white photographs. It is important to complete the state form so the SHPO has a permanent record in the format it works with regularly. Some information on the state form and the ABPP form is redundant, but filling out the state form is not overly burdensome. Surveyors should always use the state form to complete the narrative description of the site, the narrative on significance, and the site plan. Submit copies of the completed state form along with the completed ABPP form to the SHPO and the National Park Service so that identical records will be available to both the state and Federal decision-makers. Copies of labeled photographs should go to both offices.

The ABPP Battlefield Survey Form

The American Battlefield Protection Program's survey form aims to collect baseline land use data and more detailed cultural resource information than most state survey forms request. Recording this important information helps the ABPP evaluate the condition of and threats to the battlefield landscape and make recommendations for its preservation. Note the following guidelines when completing the ABPP Battlefield Survey Form.

Battle Information Checklist

This is simply a cover sheet for the survey forms and supporting information that will be attached. Under duration of engagement, provide an estimate of how long the combatants fought (twenty minutes, two hours, dawn to dusk). Under intensity of engagement, check all listed elements that describe the fighting. The ABPP will use this information to develop an objective scale of engagement types and intensity.

The description of the battle should be no more than three paragraphs; other narratives, descriptions, and accounts may be appended. For significance of engagement, please describe in two paragraphs the importance of your battlefield. (You may reference the statement of significance on the state survey form to avoid duplication.) Did it play a small or large role in the war? Was it representative of similar types of engagements within the region? Did it have an impact on the way the campaign was conducted? Were there social or political ramifications that transcended the field of battle? Is it simply a field of honor for the fallen dead and enough said?

Battlefield Information Box (page 1)

Fill in the name of the battlefield, additional names by which the battle is known, and beginning and ending dates of the event. This information will be indexed and cross-referenced in the ABPP's computer database. Campaign information is especially important for non-Civil War events, since we have not yet compiled a standardized list of campaigns for other wars. Note the name of the war or conflict during which the battle occurred. The ABPP uses the following standard names for wars/conflicts on American soil: "French and Indian War", "Revolutionary War", "War of 1812", "Mexican War", "Civil War", "World War II". For battles associated with Indian wars, write "Indian Wars" followed by a more precise name, such as "First Seminole War" or "Great Sioux War". Provide information on the location of the battlefield. List multiple counties/cities if the battlefield straddles jurisdictions. List all USGS topographical quadrangles on which the site appears. Provide the names of nearby towns or major roads. Finally, note if other battles or skirmishes took place here.

Names and Contacts (page 1-2)

Fill in your name, address, and contact information as the battlefield researcher. If possible, provide the name of a local resident or interested party who can be contacted from time to time to update information on a battlefield's status (perhaps the local battlefield guide you worked with). If there is a commemorative area or park at the site, note what agency administers it, the number of acres it protects, and the agency's contact information. Is there a visitor center? Does the park interpret the battle? Is there a local battlefield support group for the site? If so, provide contact information for the group. The ABPP will provide technical assistance and information on battlefield preservation funding to parks and support groups noted on the survey forms.

Battlefield Registration (page 2)

A number of battlefields that witnessed the most decisive actions in American history have attained National Historic Landmark status. Many other battlefields are listed in or have been deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Having a battlefield listed in the National Register is a good place to begin if you wish to gain recognition for and encourage the protection of a battlefield site (see page 5). A National Register listing requires more documentation and a more thorough assessment of existing integrity than does the ABPP survey.¹⁴ If your battlefield is listed or if the Secretary of the Interior has determined the site eligible for the National Register (a formal Determination of Eligibility), please note this fact. Find out if the battlefield is listed in State or Local Registers of Historic Landmarks, if these exist. State and local lists can be used to build the case for preserving battlefield land (see page 5). Finally, note whether any "contributing" resources are included in registered national, state, or local historic districts. A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a larger property is significant. For example, several

¹⁴ See Patrick W. Andrus, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields*, Washington DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992.

houses used as cover by Union soldiers during the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg contribute to the city's National Register district, but are not individually listed for their association with the battle.

Certainty of Battlefield Location (page 2)

This series of yes/no questions will help ABPP to identify battlefields where the location is questionable or in debate. For some smaller engagements, the surveyor may know generally where the battle was fought but believes that an archeological assessment will be needed to locate the core of the battlefield. In such cases, it is appropriate to define a Study Area for the battlefield but not a Core Area. All of the additional site information can be filled in for the Study Area. If a site is truly lost to history, the surveyor should exhausted all reasonable lines of inquiry and document his or her efforts before concluding the site cannot be located.

Current Land Use (page 2)

Using the USGS quadrangles and the updated information you collected in the field, estimate the percentage of battlefield Core Area that falls into each of the land use categories. We are looking for a reasonable estimate only. The categories should reflect the dominant land use in the area. This information will enable us to develop general classifications and percentages of land use for various battlefield landscapes. If you have time, visit your local county or town planning office for detailed information on land use at the battlefield.

Battlefield Features Inventory (page 3)

Check the most common types of surviving visible or known cultural resources of the battlefield. Then tally the number resources of that type found on the battlefield. The ABPP will use this information to compile maps showing concentrations of the various resource types. Use the *Describe Other* section to discuss additional features not on the list.

Visual Considerations (page 3)

With an eye to interpreting the battle, determine which landscape elements are present that were there at the time of the battle. Do current road alignments essentially follow the old roads? Could a visitor visualize and understand where and how soldiers were deployed on the terrain and how they maneuvered? Do key features mentioned in the battle accounts or shown on historic maps still survive? If the battlefield is fragmented by incompatible land use, what remains of the original battlefield that could be used to tell the story of the battle? Finally, objectively critique those landscape elements that detract from our ability to understand how the battle was fought and why it was fought on this site.

Rate Overall Condition of Battlefield Landscape (page 3)

The condition assessment applies to the *overall* historic landscape of the battlefield Core Area as it currently exists, including the most important viewsheds. There are four categories that describe the range between an intact landscape and one fragmented by intrusions and developments. Please select an entire condition category. For borderline cases, select a condition then add your qualifying comments.

1. Land use is little changed since the period of significance.
2. Portions of landscape have been altered, but most essential features remain.
3. Much of the landscape has been altered and fragmented, leaving some essential features.
4. Landscape and terrain have been altered beyond recognition since the period of significance.

Assessing a landscape's condition and integrity is often a matter of degree. Reversible land use changes, such as fields becoming forest or forests becoming fields, should not count against the condition. Few sites are pristine. A few modern single-family homes along the roads and highways should not count unduly against the condition, so long as the historic character of the landscape predominates. A field developed for a high-density housing development or industrial site may be a different issue. At some point, as modern intrusions clutter the scene, the sense of viewing an intact landscape begins to slip away. The more the topography is altered, the larger the intrusions, the greater the fragmentation, the less the historic landscape retains its integrity. Few badly fragmented battlefields are completely gone; some small piece may survive that is worthy of preservation and commemoration. If a small but notable parcel of the total battlefield remains in good condition while the rest must be assessed poorly, please note this fact in your written description of the current condition. The PotNR boundary line might include only one acre of what was originally a 500-acre battlefield.

Threats to Site Integrity (page 4)

Assess threats two ways: 1) by the relative rate of change over the last ten years (from zero-growth to rapid development); and 2) by the type of change (see the list of building and construction classes). Check all that apply to the battlefield landscape.

Under the *Describe Immediate Threats* section, offer specific examples of land use changes that currently threaten the battlefield landscape. How do these changes threaten the battlefield? What critical areas have been lost or are endangered? How is the ability to interpret the battle affected? Will the outcome of these changes be an immediate reduction of the overall condition rating?

Discuss the general trend of land use change for the future under the *Describe Long-term Threats* section. Based on what has happened in the last ten years, does it appear that this trend will continue over the next ten years? What new projects are rumored to be on the horizon? What do you think the condition rating of the battlefield will be ten years from now? Will it go from good to worse?

Whenever possible, check with the county/city planning office to determine expected land use in and around the battlefield.

Local Planning (page 4)

This section provides information as to the battlefield locality's planning regulations. Is the battlefield included in the locality's Comprehensive Land Use Plan if such a process is in place? Does the county/city implement zoning? If so, how is the battlefield area zoned? Also note if the zoning near or adjacent to the battlefield is markedly different from the zoning for the battlefield, e.g. adjacent land is zoned for commercial development while the battlefield itself is zoned for agricultural use or low density residential use. This may indicate a trend toward development of the battlefield in the future. This information will allow ABPP to conduct cross-site comparisons to

identify planning mechanisms conducive to battlefield preservation.

Battlefield Owners (page 5)

Provide a general estimate of the percentage of the battlefield Core Area owned by various categories of owners. Break categories down roughly into 5% or 10% increments, for example, 70% Private (individuals), 20% State (state forest), 10% Federal (national park). This information will enable the ABPP and the SHPO to analyze patterns of battlefield land ownership by state and region and predict which types of preservation efforts might be most successful. Specify the name or any public owner, such as the "Smyth County Parks Commission," the "Georgia Department of Natural Resources," or the "U.S. Bureau of Land Management." Also, identify any private non-profit organizations that own battlefield land and make their holdings accessible to the public, such as the "Mill Springs Battlefield Association" or the "Daughters of the American Revolution."

Battlefield Boundary

We have asked surveyors to delineate three distinct battlefield areas on the USGS topographical maps. 1) The Study Area is determined by history, regardless of current integrity. The Study Area includes all land over which combatants maneuvered after initial contact was made and skirmishing began. 2) The Core Area is determined by history, regardless of current integrity. The Core Area contains critical land where fighting occurred and where the combatants suffered casualties. It should be wholly contained by or congruent with the Study Area. 3) The battlefield's Potential National Register (PotNR) boundary is determined by integrity. It consists of those portions of the Study and Core Areas that retain enough integrity to meet standards of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The PotNR boundary constitutes only the surveyor's best recommendation for a battlefield boundary; it is a *preliminary* boundary, not an official National Register boundary. To make a PotNR recommendation, the surveyor needs to be familiar with the assessment process contained in two National Register publications, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields* and *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*.

Describe the PotNR boundary you have drawn and justify the demarcation. What is included? What is excluded? And Why? Refer to previous discussions of the battlefield inventory and visual considerations (page 3).

8. Submit Documentation

Use the Submission Checklist to be sure that your submission is complete. Be careful to keep copies of your work. Maps should be rolled and sent in a mailing tube. Other materials should be sent in a mailing envelope, stiffened with a piece of cardboard to prevent photographs from being bent. Place slides in numerical order in a plastic slide protector sheet. Label each slide casing using a permanent pen or No.1 or No. 2 pencil. Label black and white prints with a No. 1 or No. 2 pencil. Do not use ballpoint or felt-tip pens to label prints! Do not put adhesive labels on prints! Pen ink and adhesive glue can damage the photographs.

Send copies of all materials to your state historic preservation office and to:

Battlefield Survey Project
National Park Service
Heritage Preservation Services
American Battlefield Protection Program
1849 C Street, NW (NC330)
Washington, DC 20240

Submission Checklist

Have you included the following?

- ☐ **Completed State Survey Form**
- ☐ **Completed ABPP Survey Form**
- ☐ **Sources Sheet**
- ☐ **Defining Features List**
- ☐ **Order of Battle**
- ☐ **Troop Movement Maps**
- ☐ **Labeled Photographs/Slides**
- ☐ **Photo Log Sheet**
- ☐ **USGS Quad Marked with Study, Core, and PotNR boundaries**